

Nancy Rumrill
Groundwater Office Representative, Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

I am writing to you about the Curis Resources UIC aquifer exemption and permit application number AZ396000001. I live in Florence, and I feel that the proposed in-situ copper mine is too risky for our community. I urge you to deny Curis's application.

I understand that you revoked the former permit and I'm glad you did. Since 1997, Florence has really developed and urbanized. In 2003, the Town of Florence annexed more than 8,000 acres including most of the land that Curis proposes for mining. The Town and community members worked hard to develop the Merrill Ranch Master Plan which zoned the land for homes, schools, parks, and commercial uses. Where before there was nothing, now there are homes with more planned to come.

Curis's proposed mine would be only 1/4 mile away from the Gila River floodplain, which I have heard is planned to provide water for our future. I am worried about Curis injecting acidic liquid underground and its possible effects on our drinking water. Although Curis has told us that a clay layer protects our drinking water, they have since admitted that their proposed process may affect the taste of water. They have also admitted that this clay layer does not completely protect our water.

I am concerned that there are no commercial scale in-situ copper mines like this anywhere on our continent. How can I be sure that Curis will operate this mine safely? I have heard that some uranium mines use a process like the one Curis proposes and that these mines have had problems cleaning up groundwater. My neighbors and I do not want to be part of Curis's experiment with our water, our community and our future.

The proposed Florence Copper Project is simply unacceptable because it gambles with our drinking water and the value of our homes! Since our safety cannot be guaranteed, we cannot afford to put ourselves, our community and our children in potential jeopardy. In the desert southwest, water is precious. What do we do if Curis pollutes our water? I ask you to deny Curis's Florence Copper Project request.

Sincerely,

Michael and Karen Shoppell
FOIA Exemption 6

